

Adam Stephen to George Washington, September 6, 1755, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COLONEL ADAM STEPHEN.¹

WINCHESTER 6 9ber 1755.

SIR,

There is nothing that I can inform you of for Certain.—There is a very good Spirit in the back Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, but a person to direct, order and discipline are wanting much. The hurry of the Alarm disappointed us of Waggon, and I was on the point of marching to watkins Ferry to defend the Stores there. —

I cannot Learn that any person to be depended on, has Seen this Body of French & Indians.²—Sure we are that 52 Delawares went last week agt. the Frontiers of Pennsylvania. Two of this party was kill'd by One of their Prisoners Mc.Swine who brought in both their Scalps to Fort Cumberland last Friday —

Upon Receiving this Intelligence; and learning the Designs of the Enemy, A party of 150 turn'd out Volunteers to Intercept them with their Prisoners, at their place of Rendezvous which was appointed about 12 miles above Reas Town.

This Mc.Swine had been 11 days prisoner, was taken by a party of Shanoes, and carried over the Allegany mountains but being met by this party of 52 Delawares going to War The Shanoes made a present of him and a Dutchman, to the Delawares, who brought

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them in over to Raes town to help to drive Some Cattle and horses to the French post— They proceeded about twelve miles with the Drove—when Mc.Swine took his Opportunity and Made Pork of them—took off the Bells, and turned the horses and Cattle loose in the Woods—This Mc.Swine would Certainly have Obtain'd Some knowledge of the matter, or Seen some Signs of them had such a large Body come on this side the mountains —

The fighting Faction in Pennsyla. are ready and threaten to put to Death all the Non-resistents—Dunkers, Moravians, Dutch and Quakers, Seem to think it better to take their chance agt. the Common Enemy, than to Stay peaceably at home and meet with Certain Death for their Obstinacy & Stubborn, Absurd principles, but they want to Send to Virginia for an Officer to lead them on, and Let them No something of the Matter—They blame us much for driving the Indians that way.—I am now getting the Wagons loaded and am

Sir Your most Hume. Servt. ADAM STEPHEN

1 Adam Stephen succeeded to the command of Fort Cumberland with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; commanded expedition to South Carolina against the Creek Indians, and was later placed at the head of troops for defending the frontiers of Virginia, with the rank of Brigadier-General. At the commencement of the Revolution he was commissioned a Colonel, promoted a Brigadier-General in the Continental service, September 4, 1776, and Major-General, February 19, 1777. He behaved gallantly at the battle of Brandywine, but, as is generally known, was dismissed from the Army in 1778. He died near Winchester, Virginia, in November, 1791.

2he Maryland Gazette of August 21, 1755, stated that an officer, returned to Fort Cumberland from reconnoitring, had reported meeting two Indians, who advised him to retire, "and save his Party from the Hands of 400 French and about 100 Indians, who were at the place where Col. Dunbar was encamped, when he received the news of General Braddock's misfortune."